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SCURRILITY,

AND

DEFAMATION

CORRECTED;

OR

A proper ANSWER

To a late abusive

PAMPHLET,

INTITULED,

CITY CORRUPTION,

AND

MAL-ADMINISTRATION

DISPLAYED.

Being an Apology, for the Conduct of the Gentlemen of late Years, entrusted with the Management of the City's Affairs; and an humble Appeal to the Candour of every judicious and unbiassed Citizen.

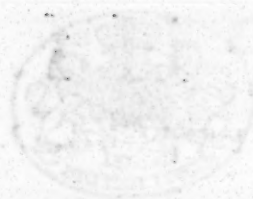
By a LOVER of TRUTH.

He who charges upon another, a Crime that deserves the Gallows, does, if it prove false, pronounce Sentence against himself, and proclaim his own Right to Tyburn.

CATO's Letters.

L O N D O N:

Printed for J. WILFORD, behind the Chapter-House, in St Paul's Church-Yard. 1739.



SCURRILITY,

AND

DEFAMATION

CORRECTED, &c.

THERE is a certain *Generosity of Spirit*, natural to *Englishmen*, which always inclines them to protect and defend the injured and oppressed; and it is remarkable amongst us, when any Set of Men attempt, by Clamour and Calumny, unjustly to run down, and villify, the Characters of those who do not deserve such severe and injurious Treatment, that the very Attempt which was calculated for their Destruction, rouses the Indignation of all Men of Virtue, and ends in the Defence and Preservation of those who were marked out as the Victims of Rage and Defamation.

This *generous Disposition of Mind*, which I will venture to call the *Characteristick* of an *Englishman*, never did, or could, shew itself more remarkably, than in the late Choice of Common-Council-Men for this City, and

in that of the respective Committees therein appointed.

The Gentlemen, who for many Years past, have constituted, and at present do constitute, the Majority of the Common-Council, have of late been the Mark of Clamour, Calumny, and Defamation: They have been treated in a Manner, even too gross to be offered to the vilest of Miscreants, or Criminals, convicted of the most flagrant and enormous Offences: But they, conscious of their own Integrity, have hitherto disregarded the most malicious Attacks of their Enemies; not in the least doubting, but their Characters were superior to the Indignities designed to be put on them.

They have therefore patiently, without a Reply, and with entire Deference, submitted themselves to the Judgment of their Fellow-Citizens; fully assured, that *they* would, by continuing their usual Favours to them, fully refute the Calumnies, and disavow the opprobrious Usage they have suffered; and thereby convince those *wholesale Dealers in Scandal and Abuse*, as well of the Wickedness, as the Folly and Impotence of their outrageous Malice.

These were the pleasing Hopes, which supported these injured Gentlemen, under the Discipline of such severe and undeserved ill Usage; and it is with a Pleasure and Satisfaction they are unable to express, that they find they were not mistaken, in the firm Dependence they had made on the Justice, as well as the Candour, of their Fellow-

low-Citizens ; by means of which, they have so effectually triumphed over the Rancour of their Enemies, that they see their Friends more numerous in the Common-Council than before ; and notwithstanding all the venomous Attacks of their declared Foes, and their *false Friends*, themselves trusted in the same Committees they have usually presided over.

This publick Testimony of the Esteem and Regard of their Fellow-Citizens, is to them a most ample Reparation of Honour, and a full Satisfaction for all the Injuries and Indignities they have received ; they cannot but smile at, and despise, the impotent Malice of their Calumniators, when they perceive they are still in full Possession of that good Will of their Brethren, which *these* in so base a Manner have attempted to deprive them of.

They would therefore have continued silent under the Load of Infamy cast upon them ; the Testimony of *Consciences void of Offence*, would have made them disregard unmerited Reproach ; but when they consider there is a Justice due to their Constituents, *the Citizens of London*, as well as to themselves, they think that, out of a Regard to *them*, it is incumbent upon them to set their Actions in a fair Light, lest their Electors should partake of the Scandal thrown on them.

These Reasons alone, have induced me to take Notice of that most malicious and scurrilous Libel, which some Months ago appeared

peared under the Title of *City Corruption, and Mal-Administration displayed*; the professed Design of which was to alienate the Affections of the *Citizens of London*, from those Gentlemen, who, for so many Years, have faithfully and industriously served them, and subvert the Interest at present established in the City, by * *producing a Change of Hands*; and this was to be brought about by the most plentiful Discharge of Falsity and Abuse, which ever was voided from so small a Book; and altho' it must be allowed to be a Master-Piece of Malice and Defamation, yet I flatter myself, that the Appeal I am now about to make from it to the Publick, will shew how little the Gentlemen accused in it, deserve such severe and cruel Treatment; and convince the World, that (according to the Words I have chosen for the Motto to my Title Page) the Author, or rather the Authors, of this equally true and polite Treatise, *having charged upon others Crimes that deserve the Gallows, have thereby only pronounced Sentence against themselves, and proclaimed their own Right to Tyburn.*

In Pursuance of the disagreeable Labour I have undertaken, I propose in the first Place, to give you a View of some of the abusive Language, with which this Libel greets the Majority of the Common-Council, the Committee of City-Lands, &c. I say some of it, for to extract it all, would be transcribing the whole Book.

In the next Place I shall consider the Facts charged upon them, and having explained those Facts from *undoubted Authority*, I shall leave the World to judge, whether the Gentlemen accused, ought on Account of those Facts to have been treated in so injurious a Manner.

I shall be very careful not to suggest any Thing, which may give any Handle to guess at the Authors of this *polite Performance*; for even insignificant as they are, I should be sorry, by so doing, to expose them to the Detestation of all Men of Honour and Worth; they may possibly, if concealed, amend their Manners, repent of what they have done, and by their future good Behaviour, make some Reparation to the Persons they have so basely attempted to injure; in a Word, my Desire is rather to reclaim them, than, by discovering, put them to open Shame, and thereby render them desperate. I will therefore detect them only to themselves, and with an ingenious Author say to them, “ *Let this Detection be the Punishment*
 “ *of their little, malicious Minds; nor can*
 “ *there be a greater, if they have one honest*
 “ *Passion remaining, that of Shame, or any*
 “ *other, to represent them to themselves, in*
 “ *their own miserable natural Colours, LY-*
 “ *ING, ENVIOUS, CONTEMPTIBLE. It*
 “ *is a Lot sufficiently wretched to be obliged to*
 “ *hate one's self, and to be hardened against*
 “ *just Shame and Reproach is almost as bad:*
 “ *Doubtless it were better to have no Soul, than*
 “ *a lying*

“ a lying and malicious One ; better not to
 “ be, than to be a false and spiteful Being.”

But however, least this *vile Production* should happen to be laid to the Charge of any Person, who has even the most distant Pretension to the Character of a Gentleman, a Man of Sense, or one of a liberal Education : I shall, by some Quotations from it, in which there are neither Common-sense, Decency, Grammar, or Meaning, undeniably prove, (what indeed, the Stile of it in general, sufficiently evinces) that it must be the Production of low vulgar Hands, mean Heads, and worse Hearts.

I am determin'd to say nothing relating to the Mansion-House, that Affair having been candidly and fully stated in the *Modest Enquiry*, to which the Reader, if he has not seen it, may have Recourse, and he will find the Authors, now under my Lash, have not attempted to answer it, and have only misrepresented it, as often as they have quoted it : Besides, as at present, there seems to reign between the contending Powers, a Disposition to bury all past Feuds and Animosities in Oblivion, and to prosecute the Building to Effect ; it would ill become me, or any one to revive the Memory of a Contention, which bears so hard upon the Prudence and good Sense of the Magistracy of this City.

The defamatory Abuses complained of, are to be seen in the following Passages of this most refined Performance : I beg I may
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be allowed the Liberty of transcribing some of the most remarkable ones.

Pag. 1. The Representatives of this City (I suppose is meant only those in Common Council) are described as *idle, frivolous Haranguers, labouring, by all the Arts of low Sophistry and fulsome Flattery, to gloss over and palliate their corrupt Measures, in order still to uphold themselves in that Power they have so shamefully abused, to the great Dishonour of the City and Magistracy.* They are charged as Persons, who by all the *wicked Arts of Deceit, Misrepresentation and Falsehood, are endeavouring to impose on the Understandings of their Fellow-Citizens, and therefore meriting their Detestation and Resentment.*

Pag. 7. Speaking of the Railing in *Moor-Fields*, after charging the City-Lands Committee for having been Confederates with the City Carpenter in defrauding the City of a very considerable Sum of Money, these Authors add, *It is scarce possible to believe what shameful Shifts, Artifices, and Prevarications were hatched, to prevent coming to a perfect Knowledge of the Quantity of this Work; and that your Representatives should take so much Pains to prevent such egregious Corruption being brought to Light.*

Pag. 8. The Committee of City Lands are charged with having a *Fellow-feeling* in every Contract, though of ever so trivial a Nature, and putting the City to *exorbitant Expences*, that they may partake of the Plunder.

Pag. 10. The Gentlemen of the same Committee are haughtily asked, *With what Face they can presume to breathe the Spirit of Patriotism, when their whole Conduct is nothing but the most unparalleled Scene of detestable Corruption, and Mal-Administration.*

Pag. 11 contains the following decent Sentence; *You see, Gentlemen, that not the least Occasion offers for gross Imposition and publick Plunder; but it is chearfully embraced and countenanced by those whom you have entrusted with the Care of your Properties.*

The Motive on which this severe Censure is founded is, that the Committee agreed that the Person who fixed the Posts at *Fleet-Market* should be paid for doing it: I am of Opinion, that there can be no just Cause for any Complaint on this Account; and it would, I think, have been decent to have spared this Article, were it only from the Consideration, that the Right Honourable the present Lord-Mayor was a Member of that Committee.

Pag. 18. Speaking of the Committee of City-Lands, it is said; *As those Gentlemen have spared no Pains to make themselves contemptible, I hope you, my Country-Men, will crown their Labours, and make them for ever so in the City of London, by excluding them from that Power they have prostituted to the most ignoble Purposes.*

Pag. 19. They are charged with *enriching themselves by the Power they were entrusted with for other Purposes, and shewing the*
strongest

strongest Attachment to Private Interest in Opposition to that of the Publick.

Pag. 35. The Authors addressing themselves to the Citizens, say, speaking of the Common-Council-Men, *It is an Insult to your common Sense and Understanding, to suppose you can think these Men fit to be trusted again, with the Care and Disposal of your Properties, when they have so dishonourably abused that Trust you have reposed in them. And again, in the same Page; Can you be so credulous to think, that whenever such Men pretend the Honour and Interest of the City, they do not always mean that of their dear selves. — Can you imagine, that Persons of those selfish Principles, do not make a Penny of every Place in their Disposal?*

Pag. 37. *It is not to be doubted, Gentlemen, but those Men who have so eminently distinguished themselves in the Arts of Corruption, will still attempt to practise the same on your very Persons, to the End, that they may still support themselves in their Designs against your Properties.*

Pag. 38. *Beware of their Sollicitations, particularly by Letters, Forgery having been too often practised by them on these Occasions.*

Well! Thanks to God, I have, at Length, waded through all this Filth and Nastiness, I thought, more that twenty Times, I should have been mired in the Midst of it; but since I am at last got upon firm Land, let me look back and see what I have got thro'; I find the Sum Total of this most abusive Language amounts to this, that all the

Persons, who for many Years past, have been employed in the City's Affairs, as well Aldermen as Commoners, have deserved no better Appellations from these polite Writers, than, *frivolous Haranguers, low Sophisters, fulsome Flatterers, Palliators of Corruption, shameful Abusers of Power; the Dishonour of the City and Magistracy; Practicers of wicked Arts, Deceits, Misrepresentations, and Falsehood; Imposers on the Understandings of their Fellow-Citizens, Misguiders of the Commoners, detestable Men, corrupt Mismanagers, gross Imposers, publick Plunderers, contemptible, Prostitutors of Power to the most ignoble Purposes, dishonourable Abusers of their Trust; Men of selfish Principles, distinguished in all the Arts of Corruption; and, to complete all, guilty of Perjury and Forgery.*

The foregoing Charge must be allowed by all Mankind to be the severest that ever was laid on People, who have served this, or any other City; I can only say, that if any one of them has deserved one twentieth Part, of what is alledged against them all, by these *foul-mouthed Orators*, such a Person ought to be at once given up, to the most exemplary Chastisements, the severest Punishments, an injured People can inflict: But if on the other hand, the Authors of this Pamphlet have, blinded by Rage, and stimulated by Malice, uttered these abominable Calumnies against innocent People, how strongly have they incurred, how richly have they deserved, the Contempt, the Scorn of every virtuous and honest Man! I am
convinced

convinced that these *Miscreants*, if ever they enjoy a lucid Interval in their Frenzy, and are not absolutely lost to every Sense of Shame, must look upon themselves with Horror and Detestation, whenever they reflect on their own shameful Conduct, and consider how gross, how infamous their Behaviour has been to Persons who have in no wise deserved such cruel Usage. But if they are of so hardened a Front, as never to reflect on, or shew a proper Repentance for their unjust Proceedings, they must of course be considered, by all honest Men, as a Reproach to the human Species, the Bane of Society, and Disturbers of the publick Peace.

The Authors of this sublimated Piece of Scandal and Invektive, have introduced their Charge, by desiring the Citizens of *London* to *permit them to lay before them, a Series of plain Facts, and those supported by such Evidence as carries it's own Conviction with it.* And in pag. 26. they add, *That as Men in Power deserve Punishment for the Abuse of it, so are their false Accusers and Defamers justly intitled to no better Fate.* After setting out in this solemn Manner, is it credible that Creatures, endued with Reason, should not produce one Fact either truly stated, or that can in any Manner be strained, so as to prove the Crimes and Corruptions they so boldly inveigh against it? Yet this is the Misfortune they labour under, and I question not but the *plain Facts they beg Leave to lay open,* will be found to be very villainously

lainously misrepresented and falsified, and in no wise capable of proving the least Neglect in the Administration of the City's Affairs, much less any Corruption in the Persons entrusted therein.

If therefore the *plain Facts* they have produced shall be judged to be fairly represented and justly proved, as the World will, in this Case, readily own, that the Persons entrusted with Power, not only justly deserve the opprobrious Language so plentifully bestowed upon them, but that their Names ought to be handed, with Infamy, down to the latest Posterity; so if, on the other hand, it shall plainly appear that these Facts are either false in themselves, unfairly represented, or not proved, and the mere Production of Envy, Rage, and Malice, these *polite Writers*, will, I hope, take Shame to themselves, and, once in their Lives, own a Truth, by ingenuously confessing, that the scurrilous Appellations they have so abundantly dealt out, can possibly suit none but themselves.

In order to put this Matter upon the fairest Issue, I will now extract the several Facts laid to the Charge of the Gentlemen in the Management of the City's Affairs, which I shall do with the exactest Care; and when I have so done, I shall offer in their Vindication, what I can collect from the *best Authorities* relating to those Facts, and then humbly appeal to the Candour of every unbiaſſed and judicious Citizen of *London*, who will judge and decide,

decide, without Anger or Partiality ; and I make no Doubt of convincing all such, that no Want of Care or Zeal for the publick Advantage has been betrayed on the Part of the Gentlemen entrusted ; and that, if they have not had the best Success in some Particulars, it has in no Manner happened from a Want of proper Caution, much less from that of Honour or Honesty, but purely from Accidents, which could neither be foreseen, nor prevented, such as every Person, in his private Affairs, is liable to, and which indeed very few can avoid, more especially in publick Works, where one is to treat and transact with Artificers, who by having purchased their Places think they have a Right to impose, and are, perhaps, in their private Characters, Persons not over scrupulous in the Means of getting Money.

The Facts of which the Gentlemen in Power are accused, are the following :

1st. *Pag. 5.* They are charged with an Attempt to cheat the City of 2378 *l. per Annum*, in lighting the City.

2d. *Pag. 6 and 7.* They are charged with having actually cheated the City of 472 *l. 12 s.* in the Railing of *Moor-Fields*, by combining with the City Carpenter, and others.

3d. *Pag. 8.* They are charged with partaking of the exorbitant Expence they run
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the City to in planting the Trees in *Moor-Fields*.

4th. *Pag.* 9. They are charged with having, by their detestable Corruption, put the City to the Expence of 1730 *l.* 5 *s.* 5 *d.* for a bad Gate at *Bishop's-Gate*, when they might have had a good one for 648 *l.*

5th. *Pag.* 10. They are charged with having unjustly deprived Mr *Browne*, the City Bricklayer, of his Right of doing the Brick-Work at *Fleet Channel*.

6th. *Pag.* 11. They are charged with having cheated the City of 80 *l.* 4 *s.* in the Article of Posts, at *Fleet-Ditch*.

7th. *Pag.* 16. They are charged with having violated the Laws, by causing several Works to be done without publick Advertisements.

8th. *Pag.* 17. They are charged with having, in a crafty and unjustifiable Manner, suffered an Artificer, to do a Rod of Brick-Work for the City, for *One Farthing*; and a Rod of Stone Coping, for Seven Pence half-penny, in order thereby to gull the City, as they elegantly express it.

9th. *Pag.* 18. They are charged with having carried their Corruption to such a Height, as even to make the Stairs at *Black-Friers* of Oak; whereas, these most sublime Genius's had rather have had them of Stone,

10th. *Pag.*

10th. *Pag.* 18. They are accused of having allowed the Artificer that Stuccoed *Guild-Hall*, Scaffolding to perform the said Work by, notwithstanding a *certain dictatorial Deputy* had said he should have none.

11th. *Pag.* 19. They are charged with partaking the unfair Gains of all Artificers concerned in the City's, or Bridge-House, Affairs.

These are the Articles of Impeachment brought against the Gentlemen intrusted with Power in the City; and in Punishment of the High Crimes and Misdemeanours therein contained, these Ribbald-Scribblers have inflicted the Pains and Penalties of Scandal, Abuse, and Defamation upon them, and have even strongly solicited, for their Banishment for ever from the Regard and Affections of their Fellow-Citizens: From this rash Sentence, they appeal to their Constituents; and when these Facts are fairly and justly stated, they flatter themselves, that this abusive Judgment will be reversed; that they shall be fully cleared of the gross and scandalous Imputations laid on them, and be better fixed than ever in the Esteem and Friendship of every Citizen of real Worth and Honour. But I proceed to examine the Facts themselves. And,

1st. In *pag. 5.* They introduce their Charge on the Committee of City-Lands, for having had an Intention of cheating the City of the Sum of 2378 *l. per Ann.* in the lighting the City; but lest any one should think I do not represent their Assertion fairly, I beg Leave to give it my Readers in their own Words, which are these: *Does not every one remember, what self-interested Schemes the lighting only of this City broached? So extremely modest were our City-Managers upon this Occasion, that they projected no less into their own private Pockets than 2378 l. per Ann. neat Profit.* This is, if true, a Charge of a very heinous and heavy Nature, and, in Justice, ought to be well supported, if not by Proofs, by Circumstances at least: But do these Men produce the least Shadow of either, to establish the Credit of so foul an Accusation? No, they content themselves with a bare-faced impudent Assertion, and seem, on their very first setting out, to have forgot they were to lay before you *a Series of plain Facts, supported by such Evidence as carries it's own Conviction with it.* What but the most consummate Degree of Wickedness and Front, could induce these Men to charge Gentlemen with so monstrous an Attempt as this, and expect to be believed on their bare Words? Is it conceivable that such a Design and Manner of slandering should enter the Hearts of Men, not equally lost to common Sense or Honour.

But

But that my Readers may know how far the Gentlemen that composed the then Committee of City-Lands were concerned in the Affair of lighting the City, I shall, from the printed Report of that Proceeding, extract the Steps taken by them therein, and leave them to judge, whether the Conduct of those Gentlemen could, in any Manner, give Cause for an Accusation of this Nature.

The Lease granted by the City to the Proprietors of the Convex-Lights, for lighting the City, being near it's Expiration, the Court of Common-Council referred to the Committee of City-Lands, to receive Proposals for the Manner and Method of lighting this City, after the Expiration of the said Lease, and make a Report of such Proposals as they should receive, together with their Opinions thereon to the Court.

In Obedience to this Reference, the said Committee reported, on the 26th of *Septemb.* 1735, that they had published several Advertisements, and received Proposals from three several Sets of Undertakers, *viz.* Mr *W. Marshall* and Comp. Mr *P. Foster* and Comp. and Mr *Leonard Bolt*, on Behalf of *Francis Afty*, Esq; and Comp. The Purport of which several Proposals they set forth in their Report; and (in Obedience to the Reference which required their Opinion on

the Affair) give it as their humble Opinion, that the Proposal made by Mr *Marshall* is the most advantageous of the three; all which however they submit to the Judgment of the Court. This Report, which was signed by two worthy Aldermen, Mr* *John Thomas*, and nine other Gentlemen of the Common-Council, was all that the City-Lands Committee ever had to do in the Affair of lighting the City: Must it not therefore be Matter of the greatest Surprise, that any Peasons, how evil-minded or malicious soever they may be, should dare, from a Transaction which passed literally, as I have related it, to deduce an Accusation of so black a Dye? What Ground, what Foundation, can there be for it?

The Reader will please to observe, that till this Time there was no Talk of lighting the City any longer than from the 10th of *August* to the 10th of *April* each Year; and during that Time, from Sun-setting until One a Clock in the Morning only. The Scheme, which afterwards took Place in the City, under the Sanction of an Act of Parliament, for lighting from Sun-set to Sun-rising throughout the whole Year, and to be done by separate Contracts in each Ward, was at that Time, scarce thought of;

* Mr *John Thomas* is a very worthy Citizen, an eminent Salt Fishmonger, dwelling on *Fish-street Hill*: He is at present Deputy to Sir *George Champion*; and a respected Member of the *Fleece-Club*.

of, and if the Citizens of *London*, by putting the lighting the City into a Form quite different from what was intended, when this Report was made, have had the good Fortune to have saved a great annual Sum to the City, shall these base Men be therefore suffered to say, that the Money saved by the Method, at present established, could be projected into any private Pocket whatever? Could the Committee of City-Lands behave otherwise, than they did in Obedience to the Thing referred to them? No, certainly, they were commanded to receive Proposals, and report them, with their Opinion thereon: This they did, and nothing more; neither could they have made a proper Return to the Common-Council, had they done less.

Let us, for Argument sake, admit it as a Truth, that if the City were to pay for the Lamps now burnt, from Sun-setting to Sun-rising, all the Year round, in the same Proportion that *Marshall* and Comp. demanded, it would come to much more than it at present costs the City: This is a very good Reason why the present Method of Lighting was preferred to all others, and unanimously agreed to by every Body; yet let it be remembered, in Abatement of the supposed Extravagancy of Mr *Marshall's* Proposal; First, That there is one great Saving, which no Undertaker could have had the Advantage of, I mean, that of Collection; which is,
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by the Act of Parliament, become a personal Duty. Secondly, That *Marshall's* Proposal was for Rape-Oil, which is considerably dearer than the Fish-Oil now used, although it must be owned, that Fish-Oil, well prepared, answers very well. Thirdly, No Inhabitants are exempted from paying on Account of hanging out a Candle and Lanthorn at their Door ; which, according to *Marshall's* Proposal, would have been the Case, and by those Means, Taverns, Ale-Houses, Coffee-Houses, &c. would not have contributed to his Undertaking ; which, with other private Lights, would have been a very great Deduction from the Income he proposed to have at so much *per* House. Lastly, It is very evident, that to maintain a Number of Lamps, burning all Night, may be done with very little more Expence of Attendance than till One in the Morning, even in the dark Quarters, and with the very same in the light Quarters of the Year ; so that as the Expence does not arise in equal Proportion to the Number of Hours, the Lamps are to burn, to light any given Number of Lamps the whole Year, must always come out in a great Proportion cheaper than for the Time mentioned in *Marshall's* Proposal.

I must beg my Reader's Pardon for this Digression, which I have been unwarily drawn into, by a Supposition that my Authors first laid it down, that *Marshall*, and
Comp.

Comp. were to have an immoderate Profit for lighting the City; and that those Wages of Iniquity were afterwards to be divided between Mr *John Thomas*, and the other Gentlemen who signed the Report; but I dismiss this Head of Accusation, and appeal to every Citizen of *London*, whether these Dealers in Infamy have not set out most unluckily, in producing a villainous Assertion without attempting any Proof of it, and audaciously pretending to impose it on the World as a *plain Fact supported by Evidence, which carries it's own Conviction with it.*

I now proceed to examine the second Fact, charged on the Gentlemen of the Committee of City-Lands; and this I find in *pag. 6 and 7*, of this polite Treatise, wherein they are accused of having combined with the City-Carpenter, to cheat the City of 472 *l.* 12 *s.* by paying him that Sum for Railing in the Quarters at *Moor-Fields*, over and above what he had *contracted* to do it for.

This is a very bold Assertion; and were there one Word of Truth in it, would prove the Members of that Committee to be both Knaves and Fools; Knaves for cheating the City at all, and Fools for doing it, in so bare-faced and slovenly a Manner, as to give a Workman 472 *l.* 12 *s.* more than he *contracted* for, in Order to divide
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the Plunder: I am of Opinion this Fact, which is also of the Number of those *plain Facts supported by Evidence*, which the Authors *beg Leave to lay before you*, will appear, on a fair Examination, to be as ill supported as the former; and will equally redound to the Shame and Confusion of the Defamers now under my Correction.

They set out, by mentioning the Work done in *Moor-Fields* as a Thing in it self unnecessary, and undertaken, *for some wise Ends not yet brought to Light*. I own I was greatly surprized to find a very necessary Repair, treated in this Manner: The Case is thus; That open Piece of Ground, called *Moor-Fields*, which was the Donation of a *worthy Citizen*, for the Use, Pleasure, and Recreation of the Citizens of *London*, had, from a long Neglect of the Rails, become very ruinous and bad; those Quarters, where the Citizens used to walk, and take the Air, were become the Rendezvous of loose, idle, and disorderly People, Vagabonds, Thieves, and Pick-pockets; even Carts traversed the Ground, and rendered that Gift, which, under proper Regulations, would have been a great Conveniency, as well as Beauty, to the City, one of the greatest Nuisances near it, as well as a Reproach to the Government of the City: It was therefore very justly thought necessary to put those Fields into a decent Order; and whoever sees them beautified, as they now are, and remembers the

the desolate Situation they were lately in, must readily own, that the Committee of City-Lands would have been inexcusable, had they any longer deferred putting them into Order, and, by their Neglect, continued to deprive the City of so great an Ornament, and the Citizens of so much Pleasure as the State of them at this Time affords.

So much as to the Reasons that induced the Committee of City-Lands to undertake the repairing and beautifying *Moor-Fields*; the Manner in which they proceeded in this Affair, is what I am now to consider; and I can, from *undoubted Authority*, assure my Reader, the following is the real State of the Case.

Mr *George Smith*, then Clerk of the City's Works, was ordered to make an Estimate of what new Railing the Quarters of *Moor-Fields* would amount to; and having consulted with the City-Carpenter, they calculated, that it would require upwards of 5000 Cubical Feet of Oak Timber to do it; and Mr *Smith* (by a Negligence, of which he was too frequently guilty, and which was one Cause of his being since dismissed from his Office) cast up the Cubical Feet in an Estimate he made at 2 s. 6 d. per Foot, Workmanship included, a Price never heard of. This *Estimate* is what the worthy Authors before me, are pleased to

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call a *Contract*; whereas it was nothing more than a Calculation made in too cursory a Manner, and that, by a Person, whose Want of Attention was often the Cause of great Mistakes; when the Work was performed, the Committee was not a little surprized to find the Carpenter's Bill, come to so much more than the Estimate; they therefore, on the sixth of *June*, 1733, appointed a Sub-Committee to examine the said Bill, and report in Writing, how they find the same, and what, in their Opinion, is fit to be done therein.

In pursuance of this Reference, the Sub-Committee, on the 11th of *July* following, reported, That they had examined Mr *Cordwell's* Bill for Railing *Moor-Fields*; and finding the same amount to a much greater Sum than the Estimate delivered in, they enquired into the Reason thereof, and were informed that the said Estimate, had, by a Mistake, been made at 2 s. and 6 d. *per* Foot, whereas the same should have been calculated at 4 s. *per* Foot: that thereupon they had applied to Mr *Gibbs*, to view and value the same, which he had accordingly done; and valued the same, with the Workmanship included, at 4 s. *per* Cubical Foot: And notwithstanding, they thought they might very safely have relied upon the Valuation set on the Work by Mr *Gibbs* alone, whose great Experience, Skill, and Character, seemed to pronounce him

to be a very competent Judge of Things of this Kind ; yet, for the greater Certainty, they had also consulted Mr *Samuel Worral*, and Mr *William Gostwell*, Carpenters, and Men of Note in their Business, who were of the same Opinion with Mr *Gibbs*, that, including Workmanship, the Railing was worth 4 *s.* per Cubic Foot ; that the Clerk of the Works had, by their Direction, measured the same, and found it to contain 5503 Cubic Feet ; which, at the Price aforesaid, amounts to 1100 *l.* 12 *s.* out of which deducting 5 *l.* for Work done by the City-Labourers, the Sum of 1095 *l.* 12 *s.* remained due to Mr *Cordwell* ; which, they were of Opinion, ought to be paid to him.

To this Report of the Sub-Committee, the Grand Committee unanimously agreed, and a Warrant was ordered accordingly.

The foregoing is a true and faithful Narrative of what passed in this Affair, from the Beginning of this Work to the Time of paying for the same ; and I would ask any impartial Man, what the Committee could do more than they did, to come at the Truth, as well of the Quantity, as of the true Value of the Work. These violent Declaimers against Frauds and Injustice, would not sure have had the Committee have endeavoured to take any Advantage of a Mistake in an Estimate : had they attempted so base an Action as this, would

they not justly have laid themselves open to the Censure of these Scandal-Mongers? Who might, in that Case, with some Reason, have represented them, as unfair Persons, who had, in a scandalous Manner, attempted to take undue Advantages, and turn the Slip of a Pen to the Ruin of an honest Tradesman? There would doubtless have been good Ground for such an Accusation as this, had they, in the dishonest Stile of my Authors, called an *Estimate* a *Contract*, and insisted upon it accordingly.

The Gentlemen who at that Time composed the Committee of City-Lands, and were present when the Report of the Subcommittee was received and agreed to, never yet lay under any Imputation of Dishonour that I have heard of; and I really did imagine, that when the Name of so worthy a Magistrate as Sir George Champion, appears on the Books, as present at the Committee of that Day, and stands among the Number of those who signed the Warrant on the Chamberlain, in Favour of Mr Cordwell; I say, when the Name of a Gentleman, so zealous in reforming Abuses, one who has ever declared so great an Abhorrence to Corruption in every Shape, and is at the Head of a Society, established (as the Members of it on all Occasions declare) purely to detect Abuses and *display Mal-Administration*, I had great Hopes it would have afforded Protection, to all the Gentlemen who passed
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and paid Mr *Cordwell's* Bill: But how much, alas! have I been deceived, even the Sanction of so great a Name has not been sufficient to protect them from the infamous Reproaches of the Authors before me, who, like *Drawcanfir* in the Play, are so furious as to kill both Friend and Foe.

This Affair rested in the Manner just now related, from the 11th of *July*, 1733, till the 22d of *May*, 1734. When the Court of Aldermen recommended it to the Committee of City-Lands, to re-examine Mr *Cordwell's* Bill, and compare it with a new Admeasurement and Valuation then made of the Work; and in Case there is more charged than ought to be, to rectify the same; on this the Committee immediately ordered, that *John James*, Esq; be desired to re-measure the same, which he did; and, after several Meetings and Conferences with Mr *Dance* and others, they, on the 30th of *April*, 1735, report, that the Work measured no more than 5189 Cubical Feet, so that Mr *Cordwell* had been paid for 314 Feet too many; which, at 4 s. per Foot, amounted to 62 l. 16 s. But Mr *Cordwell* alledging, that he had twice altered the Rails, for which he had received no Consideration; and Mr *James* and Mr *Dance* agreeing in Judgment, that those Alterations did deserve 20 l. The same was deducted, and Mr *Cordwell* ordered to pay the Remainder, being 42 l. 16 s. into the Chamber of *London*; to which he agreed.

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I have now laid before my Readers every minute Transaction, relating to the Work in *Moor-Fields* ; and I appeal to every just and candid Person, whether these Dealers in Defamation have made out any Part of their infamous Charge ? Was this Work, as they basely have asserted, contracted for in the Sum of 628*l.* ? Were there any *shameful Shifts, Artifices, or Prevarications made use of to conceal any Part of this Affair* ? Were not all the Proceedings of the Committee, in every Respect, open, equitable, fair, and honourable ? Is there the least Step in all this Transaction, that can even render the Committee suspected of any dishonest Dealings, much less deserving the heavy Reproaches cast upon them on this Account ?

The Gentlemen of the Committee scorned to take any Advantage of a palpable Mistake in an Estimate ; and although it had been in their Power, by Law, to have given it the Force of a Contract, which it was not, yet the Attempt would have been base and unjust, and the Workman would have been entitled to a Relief in Equity.

Before the Committee paid the Bill, they took all the proper and possible Steps in their Power to be fully certified as well of the Quantity as the Value of the Work ; as to the Quantity, they relied on their
Clerk

Clerk of the Works, whose Business it was to measure it, as to the Value that was fixed by indifferent Persons, Men of Probity, Knowledge, and Reputation, who could have no Advantage in misleading the Committee : What could they do more than they did ! I cannot conceive why they should be even blamed, much less why they should be treated with such infamous Scurrility on this Account : They cannot be supposed, in their own Persons, to be competent Judges of this kind of Work ; but when they took all the best Precautions the Nature of the Case would admit of, to gain a true Information of the Matter, they did all that could be expected or desired of them, and therefore I will venture to pronounce the Authors of the Book before me, guilty of the basest Ingratitude as well as the most unjust Defamation ; in their villainous Attempt to blacken the Reputation of that worthy Magistrate Sir *George Champion*, and the rest of that Committee, upon Account of their Proceedings in this Affair.

As to the bad and unworkman-like Manner, in which this Work is said to be executed, the Members of the Committee ought not to be blamed on that Account ; they are not competent Judges of such Matters ; all Faults of that Kind, if any such there be, must be placed to the Account of the then Clerk of the Works, whose Ob-
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ligation it was to look into Things of this Kind ; he, it must be allowed, was less careful than he ought to have been, and his Conduct, in this Affair, was one great Cause of his being dismissed from his Place ; into which a very honest and able Man is now admitted, who will, I doubt not, for the Time to come, protect and defend the City from the *Depredations* of Artificers.

I dismiss this Head, and notwithstanding I have, as I humbly apprehend, cleared the Honour of the Committee of City-Lands, from the malicious and false Accusations of my Authors, yet I cannot help owning, they were very defective in one Point ; I mean, in not having taken the Opinion of these wise and knowing Men, in a Work of this Sort, since no Man can read the eloquent and polite Treatise now before me, but must allow them to be great Masters in the *Art of Railing*.

The third Fact laid to the Charge of the Gentlemen, intrusted with Power, is, that in every Contract, of how trivial a Nature so ever, they have a *Fellow-feeling*, and partake themselves of the exorbitant Expence they run the City to.

After the bad Success the Authors, I am now chastising, have had in the *two first plain Facts* they have produced, and which I have, I hope, fully disproved and exposed
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to the Contempt of my Readers, it may be, perhaps, expected, that this Charge which so deeply affects and wounds the Reputation of the Gentlemen to whom it is applied, should be supported by some kind of Proof; for certainly these inveterate Defamers, can claim no Right to be believed, without bringing some Vouchers of the Truth of what they so boldly assert: This they are sensible of, and therefore they have endeavoured to support this Slander by a Fact which is to prove it: Were they as real Objects of Compassion as they certainly are of Contempt, one could scarce, I think, help pitying them, for the ill Luck which, in this particular Case, attends them; they are so eager in throwing Dirt, that one would think they had put out their own Eyes with it; for if they had not been blind, they must have perceived, that the Fact they bring to support this Calumny, confutes it, and proves quite the reverse of what their Rage and Malice dictates: They tell you, that a Person, who was before the Committee, when they received Proposals for planting *Moor-Fields*, demanded 12 s. *per* Tree; and that the Committee agreed with another to plant the same Sort of Trees for 18 Pence *per* Tree; that is, the Committee, *with a foul Intention of cheating the City*, rejected an extravagant Proposal, and agreed to except a reasonable one: What, in the Name of Wonder, do these Animals drive at! Could

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one ever have imagined that so virulent an Accusation should be founded on an Action in which the real good Management, the laudable Frugality, of the Committee is so strongly manifested? If they, by their Care of the City's Interest, obtained that for 18 Pence for which 12 s. had been demanded, they could scarce imagine they should be abused for so doing; they had, I think, more Reason to have expected the Applause of their Constituents on such an Account, than the Abuse of these Defamers: Had the Case been just the reverse of what they cite; had 12 s. *per* Tree been given, when it was offered at 18 Pence, there would have been just Grounds for supposing (as they elegantly stile it) a *Fellow-feeling*; but from the Fact they instance, to deduce an Accusation of so black a Nature, is what none can dare attempt without giving up all Pretensions to common Sense, as well as to Honesty and Decency; low, base, wretched Creatures! Objects of Scorn and Contempt! How strongly are you urged, by Rage and Malice, to defame! In how mean, how impotent a Manner do you attempt the Execution of your *base Design*!

I now proceed to examine the fourth Fact, as it stands charged in *pag.* 8 and 9. It amounts to this, that the Gentlemen in the Committee of City-Lands might have had a good substantial Gate built in *Bishop's-Gate-*

Gate-street, by Mr *Smith*, for 648*l.* but that they, by *their wise and equitable Conduct*, had run the City to an Expence of 1730*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.* for a very bad one.

I am of Opinion, that the unjust Manner in which this Fact is stated, will render the Malice of this Charge as conspicuous, and as void of the Fruit expected from it by the *Defamers*, as any of the former: They say, that Mr *Smith* proposed to undertake the Work for 648*l.* but that the Committee, for *Reasons best known to themselves*, resolved, the *City-Artificers* should have this Job, at 950*l.* and that not content with depriving Mr *Smith* of this Work, they most *arbitrarily* and *violently* pretended to wrest out of his Hands a Piece of void Ground, adjoining to *Bishop's-Gate*, for which he had contracted to take a Building-Lease, at 8*l.* *per Ann.* under a Fine of 50*l.*

Were the Fact as it is here represented, the Committee would find themselves very much puzzled how to acquit themselves of the highest Injustice and most arbitrary Proceedings; but the true Fact is as follows.

After the Committee had published, that they would receive Proposals for rebuilding *Bishop's-Gate*, according to a Plan thereof, to be seen at the Comptroller's Office, on

the Twenty-second of November, 1732, *Edward Smith* proposed to build a Gate for 648*l.* and being told by the Committee, when they accepted his Proposal, that the Gate must be built in the Manner published, he agreed thereto, and a Contract was ordered to be drawn up in Conformity thereunto: This was no sooner done, than the said *Smith* bargained for a Piece of void Ground adjoining to the intended Gate, for a Lease of Sixty-one Years, at 8*l.* per Ann. and a Fine of 50*l.* into which Demise the Committee came, not in the least suspecting that *Smith* had any Design to elude his Contract for building the Gate; the Contract for which, being in due Time drawn up, was tendered to him to sign: He refused to sign the Contract, saying, he would not build according to the Plan in the Comptroller's Office, *although he had agreed so to do*, but that he would build according to a Plan of his own: By this it is plain, *Smith* refused to ratify the Contract he had made, and it was not taken from him by the Committee, *Reasons best known to themselves*, as is falsely and maliciously suggested; but *Mr Smith*, for *Reasons best known to himself*, refused to ratify the Agreement, and sign the Contract he had verbally made in Presence of the Committee.

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The Agreement with *Smith* going off in so unexpected a Manner, the Committee began to fear, that a great Inconvenience might arise from his having the Piece of void Ground adjoining to the intended Gate, which they had let him have, in full Faith and Persuasion, that he really intended to perform his Contract ; but he having evaded that, there was just Cause to apprehend, that by having that Ground, he might greatly embarrass the building of that Gate, since, probably, some Part of it might be necessary for that Purpose ; the Resolution which they therefore took to vacate that Agreement, was neither, an arbitrary nor a violent Act, it was an Act of mere Necessity, and a just Return to Mr *Smith's* Treatment, in refusing to ratify and sign a Contract he had made : His Intentions in artfully getting into the Possession of the void Piece of Ground, were manifestly either to have it in his Power to build such a Gate there as he pleased, without any Regard to the Plan in the Comptroller's Office, or to hinder the Progress of that Building by any other, unless he could make an uncommon Advantage, by giving up the Demise of the Ground which he had obtained of the Committee, under a Pretence that he would contract for the Gate ; which it is plain he never intended to perform, unless he should be allowed to do it in his own Way : This Behaviour of *Smith's*
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could not intitle him to any Favour from the Committee, he certainly had very justly incurred their Resentment ; they therefore took, *by Advice of Counsel*, an Advantage of his not having paid his Fine in due Time, and vacated the Demise accordingly : in doing which, they did no more than any private Person would have done, who had, by false Pretences, been drawn into an Inconveniency of this Sort ; they took the Advantage of the Law, and nothing more.

Mr *Smith* having, in the Manner above-recited, refused to undertake the Gate in the Manner it had been published, an Agreement was afterward made with Mr *Horsenail* to build the Gate *according to the Plan*, for the Sum of 950 *l.* he allowing the City 50 *l.* for all the old Materials, except the leaden Cistern, Pipes, &c. This Proposal of Mr *Horsenail's* was always looked on as a very reasonable one, for building the Gate according to the Plan in the Comptroller's Office, and it was accepted on that Account by the Committee ; and, notwithstanding my Authors assert, that the Work was given to a City-Artificer, Mr *Horsenail* is no City-Artificer, this is therefore a Falsity ; but in a Book, where is scarce one Word of Truth, it would be ridiculous to point out any particular Lye.

Mr *Horse-*

Mr *Horsenail*, in pursuance to his Contract, begun and carried on the Building, and, it must be owned, a very unhappy Accident attended it; the Scaffolding and Centers were scarce struck, when the Gate fell down: Whether this Ruin was occasioned by a Defect in the Plan, or the Manner of executing it, I will not determine; but this I will say, that it is very unjust to charge the ill Success thereof to the Want of Care or Management of the Committee: Could the united Strength of that worthy Citizen, Mr *John Thomas*, and that worshipful Alderman, Sir *George Champion*, then Members of that Committee, prevent the Gate from falling? No, doubtless, they could not have retarded the Ruin of it for one Moment, not even altho' the whole Fleece-Club had joined with them to support it: Must we not from thence conclude, that nothing could prevent it's Fall?

This was certainly a very mortifying Accident for the Builder, but an Accident that may befall the most experienced Builders, and their most careful and equitable Employers; we have, within a very little Time past, seen this Misfortune attend private Buildings in * two Instances, where it cannot be supposed any Want of Care or Management could be imputed to the Persons

* *John's Coffee-House in Cornhill.* Another House in *Walbroke*, building for Sir *Roger Hudson*.

sons for whose Accounts those Buildings were erected: Why therefore should any ill Management be imputed to the Committee of City-Lands, because an Accident attended a Building erected by their Order, which the greatest Care and good Management of private Persons have not been able totally to exempt them from? Sure when Gentlemen, concerned in publick Affairs, shew as much Care as private Persons do in their own, nothing further can be required of them.

Let us now see how Mr *Horsenail* behaved himself under this Misfortune, and I believe it must be owned that nothing could be more just and honourable than what he did on this Occasion; he might, (as I fear many many other Artificers under the like Circumstances would) have wrangled, and have laid the Fault on the Insufficiency of the Plan; he laid no great Stress on this, but immediately agreed to rebuild it at his own Expence, under the Direction of Mr *James*; and obliged himself to add such additional Works as should be thought proper for the Strength of the Gate, which he submitted to be paid for by the Foot or the Rod, as other Works of the same Kind were usually valued; and this was too reasonable a Proposal not to be accepted.

Be pleased to observe what the Clamour, which my foul-monthed Authors have raised against the Committee of City-Lands, on Account of *Bishop's-Gate*, amounts to; *Smith* was not deprived of the Work, but refused to do it; he was not violently, and in an arbitrary Manner, ousted of a Lease he had taken, in a fair and open Manner; the Committee only took hold of an Advantage they had over him by Law, on Account of his not paying his Fine in the Time agreed upon by his Contract, to hinder him from coming into a Demise he had obtained under a fallacious Pretence, and which he was desirous of having, purely that it might be in his Power to distress the City: As to the falling of the Gate, the City suffered no other Loss, by that Misfortune, but the Loss of Time: *Horse-nail* rebuilt it at his own Expence; the additional Works were done by the Advice, and under the Direction of an able and experienced Architect; paid for at fair and reasonable Prices, and were not only Additions to the Strength but the Beauty of the Work: Is there, in fine, in the whole Conduct of the Committee, any Step that deserves Blame, much less the scurrillous Treatment laid on them by the Defamers I have now undertaken to correct.

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As to the Manner in which the Expence of building *Bishop's-Gate* is calculated, I think it too ridiculous to be seriously exploded ; it will suffice to observe on this Head, that my Authors are as full of Fallacy in their Figures as their Words, and have no Regard to Truth in any Shape or Dress.

The fifth Article of Impeachment, which *the Animals I am now currying* bring against the Committee of City-Lands is that, in *pag. 10*, where they charge them with having, by *shameful and enormous Practices*, unjustly deprived the *eminent Mr Brown*, City-Bricklayer, of his undoubted Right of doing the Brick-Work at *Fleet-Channel*.

Hitherto these angry Authors have abused the Gentlemen in Power, for throwing Jobs into the Hands of the City-Artificers ; for doing which they have made a copious Discharge of their Ribaldry upon them, and have told them, they play into such Hands, in order to have a *Fellow-feeling* with them, and share the *Plunder of the City* ; but now, on a Sudden, the Scene is quite changed, and, truly, a Fit of Tenderneſs ſeizes them, on Behalf of *Mr Brown*, the City-Bricklayer, and the Committee of City-Lands is to be ill treated for not throwing the Job into his Hands : How is it poſſible to pleaſe ſuch Animals ? If you give the Work to a City-Artificer, your Honour is arraigned,
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and they cry, Ay, you will be sure to have a Share in the Plunder : If you put it into other Hands, your Justice is called in Question, and you are charged with doing a Wrong to an *eminent Artificer*, whose Money you have had for the Purchase of his Place.

As the scurrilous Authors now under my Correction, have not pretended that *Brown* would have done the Work cheaper than *Sharpe*, to whom it was given, did it ; I think it will be sufficient to lay before my Readers, the Reasons which induced the Committee to give the Preference to *Sharpe* before *Brown* : Why, truly, when the Proposals, were to be received by the Committee, *Brown*, because he was City-Bricklayer, refused to tie himself up to any particular Articles, he only claimed a Right to do the Work, and desired to be paid for it as it should be valued after it was done : This being looked on, by the Committee, as a very loose, and uncertain Manner of engaging in a Work of so great Amount and Consequence : They called Mr *Brown* in, and told him, That if he would make a Proposal in the Manner others did, they would shew a proper Regard thereto ; but he insisted on his Right, as City-Bricklayer, and would make no explicit Proposal ; for which Impertinence of Behaviour, he was very justly laid aside, and the Work was contracted for with Mr *Sharpe*, to do it under the Inspection of Mr *James*,

who, from Time to Time, surveyed the Work, and gave the Committee a satisfactory Account thereof.

This is the Fact as it really passed, and I would appeal to all the World, whether if the Work had been given to *Brown*, especially on such unconcerted Terms, as those on which he pretended to do it, the Committee might not have been abused by the Authors before me, for leaving *a Piece of Work of so many thousand Pounds Importance, to the Mercy of a City-Artificer*: I really am persuaded this would have been the Case, and am fully convinced they are angry, in their Hearts, with the Committee, for not having done a Thing they might have taken such Advantage of, and which the Committee could never have justified.

These polite Writers are very angry, in *pag. 11.* that when the Posts, which were agreed for (with iron Caps included) at Twenty-five Shillings each, were set up at *Fleet-Market*, there should be 80 *l.* 4 *s.* paid for breaking up the Pavement, making the Holes, setting the Posts, ramming in the Earth, and making good the Pavement again: If they can shew that fixing them was any Part of the Sum of Twenty-five Shillings; for which each Post was agreed to be completely made, they will do something; but if not, the Charges of setting them, ought to be paid for, since Posts
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are of little Use until they are set into the Ground, they are therefore called upon to prove this Fact; till when they stand charged with having falsified this Fact, as they have done all the others which they have mentioned in this their Magazine of Defamation.

The next Complaint my Authors make, is in *pag.* 16. where they accuse the Committee of City-Lands, with having caused several Works to be done, without advertising, *in open Violation of the Laws*: And although they introduce this Accusation with great Pomp and Solemnity, I must submit the Importance of it to the Judgment of my Readers.

I shall mention several Works they instance as the Proofs of this *Violation of the Laws*, in the Order in which they set them down; and as to the three first Articles of the Charge, *viz.* *October* the 15th, 1733, For Stone-Steps, in *Moor-Fields*, 48 *l.* 2 *s.* 5 *d.* *Novemb.* 19. 1733, Mason's-Work, at the Sessions-House, 59 *l.* 2 *s.* 9 *d.* *Feb.* 9 and 19th, 1734, Copping-Work, at *Moor-Fields*, 21 *l.* 14 *s.* 7 *d.* These three Articles were not, as they falsely assert, performed by Mr *Horsenail*, they were done by Mr *Stanton*, the City-Mason, who was then living, and had a Right to do the same, by Virtue of his Office. As to the next Article, the Postern at *Aldgate*, 10 *Septemb.* 1734, which cost 30 *l.* 15 *s.* 9 *d.* If it was not advertised,
Sir

Sir *George Champion*, and Mr *John Thomas*, who were of the Committee, when that Work was ordered to be done, can, I question not, give very good Reasons, why they signed the Order for doing it without advertising, I have not, I must own, very minutely informed myself of this Fact ; but I find, however, that the Work was not undertaken without a very mature Deliberation : The Thing was first proposed, in *Octob. 1733*, during the Life of Mr *Stanton*, City-Mason : The Order for doing it, was signed some Time in the Month of *May* following, whilst, as I believe, he was still living, and, I believe, it was paid for to his Widow, included in an Order for 159 *l.* signed by the Committee of City-Lands, 18 *Decemb. 1734*, being in full for Mr *Stanton*, the City-Mason's Bill, to *Michaelmas, 1734*.

As to the Stone-Work added to *Bishop's-Gate*, by the Advice and Direction of Mr *James*, on the second rebuilding that Gate ; it was not probable, from the Nature of that Work, under the Circumstances the falling down of the Gate had placed it, that any Person whatever could have the doing it but the same Artificer, that had the Misfortune to be obliged to rebuild that Gate at his own Expence ; so that my unfair Objectors might have as well left out this Article, had not their Design required them to inflame the Account, by multiplying of Articles, right or wrong, in order to
mislead

mislead the Judgment of such of their Readers who are uninformed of Things of this Kind : Of this Sort too is the next Work they instance, of the new Way, for the more safe Conduction of the Prisoners from *Newgate* to the *Old-Baily*, which they say cost 200 *l.* for they must surely know this Work was done by Direction of Sir *George Champion*, then Sheriff; who can, I doubt not, if called upon, produce very good Authority for what he did in the Prosecution of that beneficial and necessary Improvement, and give proper Reasons why he did not advertise the Work.

The Piazza at *Black-Friers* might cost 77 *l.* in the Whole; but as in that Sum, are included the respective Bills of the Carpenter, Bricklayer, Mason, Plumber, Smith, Plasterer, and Painter, it did not, probably, appear to the Committee, that the Value of any of their Works did, *upon a just Estimate thereof, exceed the Sum of 20 l.* and therefore no Publication was required; and this was the Case of the Repairs at *Lamb's-Conduit*, which, they say, cost 48 *l.* as I am assured it was also with Regard to the 63 *l.* for Repairs at *Fleet-Ditch*. I shall dismiss this Article with observing, that these angry Declaimers have been as unlucky, in what they have aimed at, in this Attack, as in all the rest, and I am persuaded, no Man of Candour can allow that any one of the Facts they

they have produced can prove the Accusation it was intended to support.

The next Thing they proceed upon, is a very important Discovery they have made; namely, that once upon a Time, the Committee, in a most profuse and prodigal Manner, contracted with a Person to do a Rod of Brick-Work for a *Farthing*; from this they very *modestly* infer, that the Artificer, who did this, could have nothing in View, but to *fill his own Coffers, and those of his Employers, at the City's Expence*, who was, by this Stratagem, *to be gulled out of immense Sums*: This *redoubted Fact*, which they print in Capital Letters, is really a mighty new Way of *gulling the City*, and a Bricklayer would be a great while *in filling his own Coffers, and those of his Employers*, after the Rate of a Farthing a Rod for Brick-Work; but I will state the Case according to the best Manner I have been able to collect the Circumstances of it, and leave my Reader to make his own Inferences from it. The Fact is thus:

A small Job of Brick-Work being wanted to be done in *Moor Fields*, a Dispute arose, among some Bricklayers, who should do it; and one of them, Mr *Cooper* by Name, offered to do it for a Farthing *per Rod*: What might be the real Cause of this Emulation did not appear; but it being suspected, it might be done with an Intent to claim the
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doing of other Jobbs, they were told, in order to obviate any Expectations of that kind, *that although their Proposal should be accepted, it would not entitle them to any future Work.* Notwithstanding this, they persisted in their Humour, and the Work was given to Mr Cooper for a Farthing: I would humbly now ask my Authors, What could the Committee do in this Case? If they had refused accepting this Proposal, and had given more for it than was asked, What would my Authors have said? or rather, What would they not have said? If, in making such a capricious Proposal, they had the indirect Views they are charged with, the Declaration of the Committee ought to have convinced them how fruitless the Attempt must be; if, after that Admonition, they continued resolved to make the City a Present of a Rod or two of Brick-Work, they were certainly free to do it: I think it is very plain, if from hence they had any Design to *plunder the City*, they must have had very bad Success in their Scheme, otherwise these indefatigable Scandal-Brokers, must certainly have found it out, and would have been highly delighted to have swelled, this their wonderful Performance with a Recital of it: If there really was any evil Design on the Part of the Committee in this Affair, Mr *John Thomas*, who was present in the Committee at the making of this Contract, can certainly clear up the Matter; I think, that so worthy a Citizen's being a *contracting Party*,

in this *Farthing Treaty*, ought to convince every one, that no Detriment could accrue to the City from it; but I grow quite sick with this low, dull Stuff, and believe my Readers do so too: I will therefore beg their Patience but for a Moment longer, to consider very briefly of the two last Articles of Accusation contained in the Book before me.

In *pag.* 18, great Fault is found with the Committee of City-Lands, for causing Oak-Steps to be made at *Black-Friers*, when, it seems, my Authors would rather have had them of Stone: Had these *wise Heads* made a timely Remonstrance against Oak-Steps, they might possibly have been gratified in the Affair; or if refused, might have had some Foundation for the Anger they shew on this Occasion: but as they did not take this Method, I cannot see they have any Right to be in such a Passion with the Committee on this Account, as, with their usual good Manners, to treat this Proceeding as *shockingly ridiculous*, and give it as a Reason, why the Gentlemen in Power should be treated, *with eternal Contempt by their Fellow-Citizens, and be for ever excluded from their Regard and Affection*; when these *silly Fellows* say, that Oak-Stairs were made, because Stone would not suit the Carpenter: Might they not, in case Stone-Steps had been erected, have said, with equal Force and Energy, that the Steps were made of Stone, because

because Oak would not suit the Mason? One might have hoped, that by having the Steps at *Black-Friers* partly Stone, and partly Oak, every Body might have been pleased, since each Person might have trod on either, as he liked best ; and as my Authors are so angry, notwithstanding they have their Choice of Oaken or Stone-Steps, it is very plain to me, that the Gentlemen, now in Power, can *make no Steps* that will please them. I hope I shall be forgiven for treating this Matter ludicrously, for such impertinent Objections as these deserve no serious Answer.

Of the same ridiculous Stamp is another Complaint they make in the same Page, *viz.* That truly, Scaffolding had been allowed to the Artificers that stuccoed the Outside of *Guild-Hall*, although a *certain dictatorial Deputy* had said they should have none: What Deputy these angry Gentlemen are pleased to point out by this pompous Appellation, I neither know nor care ; but sure if these ingenious Contrivers knew in what manner Stucco could be laid on the Outside of *Guild-Hall* without Scaffolding, it would have been kind in them to have communicated their Secret to the Committee, who would have received it with Thanks ; but till they are pleased to make this Discovery, Scaffolding will be deemed as necessary for performing Stucco-Work, as Straw is, for the making of Bricks ; and if my

Authors ever did look into the Bible, (which the whole Tenour of their Performance makes me strongly doubt) they must have seen how much *Pharaoh*, King of *Egypt*, was blamed for expecting the *Israelites* should make Bricks without Straw; the Committee of City-Lands are not so unreasonable as to expect this, from any Artificers, who although they are Artificers, are still their Fellow-Citizens; they will therefore leave the Honourable Title of *Egyptian Task-Masters*, to my worthy Authors, and their Friends, to be by them exercised as soon as their profound Treatise on *City-Corruption* shall have had it's intended Effect; that is, when it shall have occasioned a *Change of Hands*, and shall have banished the Gentlemen, now in Power, from the Esteem and Regard of their Fellow-Citizens, to make Room for themselves.

These worthy Patrons of Scurrility and Defamation, having now exhausted their whole Store of what they have had the consummate Assurance to call plain Facts, supported by Evidence, which carries it's own Conviction with it, conclude all, by a general Assertion, in pag. 19, That the Gentlemen, in Power, partake the unfair Gains, of all Artificers employed either in the City's or Bridge-House Affairs; but as this Accusation is unsupported by any kind of Proof, and as these Assassins of the good Names of their Brethren, have been plainly and fully convicted of Malice and

and Falsehood, in every Fact they have advanced throughout their whole Libel, I shall take no Pains, to refute a Calumny, of which their Word alone is Guarrantee, being fully convinced, that by this time they appear so *scandalously contemptible* in the Eyes of all Men of *Virtue* and *Honour*, that their *Evidence* would not be sufficient to hang a Dog, nor their *Word* be taken for the tenth Part of a Farthing.

I flatter myself, that I have sufficiently detected the Authors of the Book before me, and that they stand convicted of the basest and most ungenerous Attempt, which human Nature, in it's greatest Depravity can be capable of, I mean that of endeavouring, by false Assertions, and Facts purposely wrong stated, to *blacken* and *defame* Characters, which ever have deserved a quite different Treatment: If Gentlemens Reputations were to be blasted by the infectious Breath of such *Insects* as these, hard, very hard indeed, would be the Fate, of any one that had a Share in the Management of the City's Business; no Person, either of Character or Fortune, would, on such Terms, have any thing to do in the Administration of the City's Affairs: The greatest Dignities of the City must fall to the Lot of Men of no Worth, if an upright, just, and unblameable Conduct, cannot protect Men of Honour from the infamous Attempts of such merciless Defamers as these I have now been correcting:

recting : Should this vile Practice continue without Rebuke, the Court of Aldermen it self might, in Time, be filled with People of a Rank so low in Life, as must naturally make them the easy Purchase of any Power that might think them worth buying ; their Wants, as well of Fortune, Character, as Shame, might press them in such a Manner as not to permit them to wait for the Application of the *Corrupter* ; they would, probably, meet him half Way, and offer themselves *willing Prostitutes, Volunteers in Iniquity* : But I hope this will never be the unhappy Condition of this City.

I should now, as I promised, proceed to shew, that it is impossible that any Person, who has the least Pretence to the Character of a Gentleman, could have any Hand in the wretched Performance now before me ; but as the Chain of Lies, Malice, and Falsehood, which runs through it, must have made it evident, that it must be the Production of infamous Heads and corrupt Hearts, and as I have spent more Time, than I intended, in exposing the villainous Untruths contained in it, I shall beg to be excused, if I shew Mercy to my Readers, and only just mention some of those Passages, which are both nonsensical and absurd, without making any exact Annotations, on the Stile and Manner of a Book, which is so very much below the Dignity of Criticism,
and

and the Notice of any Man of common Understanding.

Can any Man of Sense read that Passage, in pag. 4, and not conclude the Authors quite deprived of Reason? It runs in the following Words: *The first Scene that presents itself is, the extraordinary Conduct of a distinguished Club, who, to conceal their Patriotism, have encircled themselves within a certain grand Luminary, that it might all center in the common Interests only, of their dear Constituents.* What, in the Name of Nonsense, can they mean by this bombast Jargon? Is it a good Method of concealing any Thing, to encircle it within a grand Luminary; or, in other Words, put it in a strong Light?

Pag. 5, they say; *The Misfortune is, here, the sacred Office of a Common-Council-Man is prostituted to the lowest and basest Ends.* Here! Where? This pretty Paragraph is something obscure, for want of the Authors explaining, where the Prostitution, they complain of, was committed; had it been dated from the Place where it was wrote, no Man would, I believe, dispute the Truth of the Assertion: I should be glad, however, to know, by what Authority, either antient or modern, they apply the Epithet, *sacred*, to the Office of a Common-Council-Man; having, till now, I must confess, considered it as an Office of a Nature purely Civil.

In

In the same Page they further say, *So grasping after private Lucre, has this Knot of People been, that they have suffered nothing to escape them, where any offered, for Plunder:* Any what? The Grammar as well as the Sense is defective, for want of some Addition here; which, I hope, they will be pleased to rectify in their *Third Edition* of this most extraordinary Performance.

In the same Page, they acquaint their Readers, that the Acceptance of a Place under the Crown, vacates a Seat in Parliament; this is, I must own, very great News, and, I hope, they will have all the Honour of so great, so useful a Discovery, which must have been the Effect of great reading: but, for the Benefit of such as are not so profoundly learned as themselves, I could wish they would be so good as to explain what immediately follows, *viz. And it is the Choice of the People only that determines, who are fit Persons to serve the Public, where their private Interest is concerned:* This is what we may justly call, in *English*, *Gibberish*; in *French*, *Gali-matias*.

In *pag. 10.* They seem as absurd, and as unfortunate, in applying the Epithet, *Honourable*, to *Mason's Work*, as they were before in that of *sacred*, to a *Common-Council-Man*.

In

In pag. 16. I find the following perplexed Sentence, which I suppose my Authors intended for a Riddle: They say, *Though Mr H—— is not, yet he is employed as City-Mason, and therefore ought not to be so, without Advertisement, &c.* which is to say, He is not; yet he is, and therefore ought not to be: What Stuff is this?

I shall, in the next Place, present my Readers with a small Defect in Chronology, into which my Authors have blundered, from their Eagerness in pursuing their Chace of Defamation; they had, in the *polite Manner*, already quoted, spent many Pages in *displaying the Corruptions*, which occurred in the several Works of *Moor-Fields, Bishop's-Gate, Fleet-Ditch, &c.* the earliest of which was begun in the Year 1732. They then proceed, and say, pag. 13. *From the Privulence of such Measures, it is little to be admired, that the Bills of our Artificers should swell to such an enormous Height, as to give Birth to a Representation in 1729:* This must be allowed to be very wonderful, and, in some future Edition, they are desired to reconcile this to common Sense.

In the same Page, 13, they say, that if they were to write themselves out, they have Matter sufficient to fill a Volume; this wants a little Sort of Explanation: If by *writing themselves out*, they mean exhausting their

H

Malice

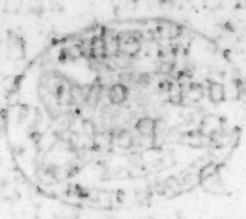
Malice and Scurrility, I must agree with them, that they have not only Matter sufficient to fill *one Volume*, but *twenty*; but if they mean Facts, I must beg Leave to assure them that they have so effectually *wrote themselves out*, that they have been *out in every Fact they have wrote*.

As to the Words *quivalent*, pag. 12. instead of *equivalent*; *think*, in pag. 20, instead of *Thing*; and *popular*, in pag. 36, instead of *populous*, I should not charge them on my Authors as bad *English*, had they not let them stand in what they have the impertinent Assurance to call the second Edition of this bright Performance; I would, however, advise them to rectify these Blunders *in all future Impressions, lest in Ages to come they may be as Stumbling-blocks to Commentators*.

I have now done with this wretched dull Stuff, and heartily beg my Reader's Pardon for having detained him so long, on a Subject so undeserving his Time or Notice. If I have been too prolix, I hope it will be imputed to the Nature of the Pamphlet I have had under my Lash, where the Malice and Falsehood of every Line would require an Answer, when, at the same Time, the Dulness and Absurdities of it could scarce deserve one.

To conclude all, I desire the World will judge between the Gentlemen in the Management of Affairs, and their Accusers, and pronounce, whether these last have not fairly drawn their own Pictures, and are not *themselves* the Persons, *who, by all the wicked Arts of Deceit, Misrepresentation, and Falsehood, are endeavouring to impose on the Understandings of their Fellow-Citizens, and therefore justly meriting their utmost Detestation and severest Resentment.*

F I N I S.



will be the first of a series of
lectures on the history of
the University of Chicago
and its relation to the
country. The first lecture
will be given by the
President of the University
of Chicago, Mr. James
McKim, on the subject of
the history of the
University of Chicago.
The second lecture will
be given by Mr. McKim
on the subject of the
history of the University
of Chicago. The third
lecture will be given by
Mr. McKim on the subject
of the history of the
University of Chicago.

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